

CABUL REGAINED.

GENERAL ROBERTS' VICTORIES.

THE AFGHANS PANIC-STRIKEN—THE ARRIVAL OF GENERAL GOUGH'S FORCES CONFIRMED.

News of an important victory has just been received by the Government in London. Last Tuesday the Afghans assembled to attack General Roberts, but he promptly sent a force against them and compelled them to fly. The report appears to have been general. Next day General Roberts was about to reoccupy Cabul and seize the Bala-Hissar. He confirms the report that General Gough's forces have joined him.

THE AFGHANS ROUTED.

A VIGOROUS ATTACK MADE BY THE BRITISH TROOPS—CABUL OPEN TO THE VICTORS.

LONDON, Dec. 28, 1879.

The Viceroy of India, under date of the 27th inst., announces that telegrams from General Roberts report the defeat and dispersion of the enemy around Cabul on Tuesday last, before the arrival of General Gough.

A dispatch from General Roberts, dated Tuesday last, confirms the above, and gives details as follows:

"Desultory attacks were kept up all of yesterday. During the day information was received that a general attack would be made at daybreak today. A large number of the enemy were seen occupying the distant villages and approaching nearer as it became dark. At 6 o'clock this morning a fire was lighted on Asmi Heights (we had been apprised that this would be the enemy's signal for the attack), and immediately afterward the attack was commenced on three sides. We were already prepared for it. On the south and west the enemy did not show much determination, but on the northeast corner of Belmar Heights some thousands collected and evidently contemplated an assault. General Hugh Gough, ably assisted by Colonel Jenkins, commanded here. "As soon as the enemy's intention was fully developed I determined on a counter attack with cavalry and artillery. These issued by a gorge between Belmar Heights, opened fire on the enemy's flank and speedily dislodged them. The cavalry pursued and sabred numbers of the enemy, who retired from all points and hastily retreated to the east. We have now occupied some advanced villages, particularly those on the Balkat road. General Gough's camp is visible six miles to the east."

A dispatch from General Roberts, dated Cabul, Wednesday last, is as follows: "Our success yesterday was complete. The enemy's loss was severe. Our losses were five killed, including Captain Dundas and Lieutenant Nugent of the Engineers by a premature explosion when blowing up the towers of a neighboring village, and thirty-three wounded, the majority of whom are doing well. Those of the enemy living in Cabul went straight to their homes after the defeat. The Kohistanis and Logaris remained in Cabul a few hours, but all fled during the night. Two of the enemy's leaders, Mushtak Alim (a priest) and Mahomed Han, fled early in the day. Another prominent leader is reported to have fled with Yakob Khan's eldest son, toward Warak. The cavalry have been in pursuit."

"The Bala-Hissar and the city will be taken possession of this afternoon. The former will be occupied, if it appears certain that there is no danger from hidden mines of powder. Yakob Khan's wife and mother, and a daughter of the late Akbar Khan, who are reported to contemplate flight, and who have done all in their power to incite the Afghans, will be brought to Shirpur to-day."

"I have telegraphed General Bright to push forward detachments from Jagdallak to Lohbaba and Lataband. I send a force to occupy Balkat and Lataband. Communication with India will be rapidly restored. General Charles Gough's brigade arrived this morning. A slight snow fell last night, all well."

GENERAL ROBERTS' CRUELITIES.

AFGHANS SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE SCORP—FORTY-NINE MEN HANGED ON ONE DAY—MURDERERS OF INDIAN PRISONERS IN ENGLAND.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Dec. 16.—It is not a pleasant task to write of British barbarities in Afghanistan. If the truth must be told, I have rather shirked it hitherto, for no better reason than because it was not pleasant; with some hope, also, that some of the accounts relied on by such Englishmen as have discussed the matter might turn out to be exaggerated. The unofficial accounts published before now have been, for the most part, Indian accounts; or, more accurately speaking, reports supplied by the correspondents of the Anglo-Indian press. They might be gossamer, but there was no gossamer in the official documents on which, in great part, Mr. Frederic Harrison's article in *The Fortnightly Review* for December was based. The proclamation of General Roberts, the despatches of the Viceroy, cannot be thought to present a view of the case needlessly unfavorable to their authors. But still it is, in a certain sense, a case for argument. I confess I do not now see what room is left for argument. A letter in *The Daily News* of yesterday supplies such details as need only be stated in order to call forth the condemnation of the civilized world. They, too, are practically official. Under the military press rules by which British correspondents are now governed in India, no communication to the public can see the light which has not previously passed the ordeal of military censorship. The British public is allowed to know so much, and only so much, as its paid servants think it to their interest to disclose. I will not stop to ask how any journal can in such circumstances, consistently with self-respect, commission a correspondent to Cabul. Let us take things as we find them. The letter in *The Daily News* is a piece of state's evidence, and to be dealt with as such. It is, I should add, only the latest of many pieces of testimony; some of them more horrible than this, and all of them together covering a much wider field, and setting forth a more awful series of atrocities than I can pretend to sum up in a single letter.

This correspondent writes from Cabul, November 12: "Hitherto," says he—that is during the six previous weeks—"the Commission has condemned all who were shown to have fought against us, at Charasiab, on the 6th of October, or on the Cabul Heights two days later." Why condemned, I ask, and to what were they condemned? They were condemned as "rebels," and the punishment was death. In what sense were they rebels? Lord Lytton tells us in his dispatch of October 18 that they were rebels because they pertinaciously opposed the British advance after warning. Lord Lytton must be understood as meaning that they were constructively rebels—rebels to the authority of the Ameer, which authority the British were constructively supporting against his subjects—a theory that involves the further assumption that the British invasion of Afghanistan was not intended, primarily, to avenge the killing of Sir Louis Cavazari, but to restore Yakob Khan to the throne. Yakob Khan meanwhile was in the British camp. Received as a guest, he was detained as a hostage, and it is now some weeks since he was sent to India to be tried for his alleged complicity in the attack on the British Embassy in Cabul. He never at any time was the accepted ruler of Afghanistan. If he ever had been the British themselves ceased to treat him as such. They pulled him down and made him prisoner and arraigned him as a criminal, they denounced as rebels the Afghans who did not recognize both the

Ameer's authority and the right of the British to enforce it. The jailer proclaimed as rebels the free men who disowned the sway of his prisoner.

Accepting this theory, let us see what was done by way of putting it in practice. Rewards were offered for all those who had fought against the British since September 3, the date of the attack on the Embassy. Later, an amnesty was proclaimed for those who gave up their arms, excepting those who took part in the attack on the Embassy or who instigated the Afghan troops and people to oppose the British. Under this exception, General Roberts hanged, among others, the Chief Mollah of Cabul for preaching a religious war. It was his business to preach a religious war. He was there for that. What should we have said if Napoleon I. had hanged Pius VII. for siding with his enemies; or, to take a more modern instance, if Victor Emmanuel had hanged Pius IX. for resisting his entry into Rome; or hanged the priests who preached a religious war against him, as they did all over Italy? Yet I apprehend it will be difficult to distinguish the two cases morally. The Chief of Police of Cabul was also hanged because an incited Mahomedan to fight against the British at Charasiab. Charasiab is a battle which the Jingo organs in London agreed in hailing as a great British victory. The soldiers who took part in it on the Afghan side—not all, but some—and at least two of their generals, were hanged after the battle by General Roberts. If the battle had gone the other way and the Afghan leader had hanged General Roberts, the world would have echoed with denunciations of Afghan barbarity. And justly so. But in what respect is the barbarity less barbarous because General Roberts boasted of their "civilization" take upon themselves the office of hangman?

The hanging policy lasted down to November 12—our latest date by post from Camp Cabul. Down to that date, and especially during the last few days, says the correspondent whom I am quoting, the work of the Military Commission has been unusually heavy. Under the "amnesty" of November 12, "it is probable that this distasteful task of sentencing men to be hanged by the sword will now be almost closed." The principle on which they were hanged we have seen already. In practice it works something like this: On the 6th seven men brought in by General Gough's force from the Shutarzard and intermediate villages were hanged—not a word to show why or wherefore. Of prisoners taken in fight there were not enough to glut General Roberts's appetite. On the 8th Brigadier-General Baker went in search of fresh batches. Lest the alarm might be given, his destination was kept a secret. He took with him the 3d Sikhs, 5th Punjab cavalry and the mountain guns. They made for the Charash Valley, "the villages of which were known to be harboring disbanded Sepoys"—in other words, the remnants of the Afghan army, which had thus far escaped the British sword after their defeat at Charasiab. The valley was surrounded, the guns were trained on the village, then the Sikhs marched in. There was no resistance of any kind. The head men of the village were ordered by General Baker to bring out all Afghan Sepoys. Five minutes were allowed the head men to produce their guests; what would have happened to the head men if, at the expiration of the five minutes, the Sepoys had not been produced is not stated, but left to the imagination of the reader—who must be dull if he cannot guess. Thirty Sepoys gave themselves up. Twenty others, down on General Baker's list, were missing; the head men were called on to account for them and forced to promise that they should be forthcoming hereafter. A fine was then imposed on the village; 120,000 pounds of grain and 600 loads of chopped straw for forage to be delivered at Shirpur by the 15th, under pain of seeing their village destroyed by fire. It is impossible not to pause long enough to notice that on the 15th, the date fixed for this ransom, General Roberts was himself beleaguered in those very Shirpur cantonments; some of these villagers, perhaps, assisting in the operation.

Other villages were visited by General Baker, and more Afghan soldiers captured. Then came what is called, with grim military pleasantry, their trial. They did not attempt to give false names. Admitting their identity, which the Afghan master rolls in Baker's possession enabled him to establish, they were then called upon to prove their "innocence," to prove that they had not been guilty of the crime of taking part in an organized military enterprise of their country against a foreign invader. Says our correspondent, writing with a staff officer looking over his shoulder, "such as could not give a clear account of their movements were condemned to death." Men who were fortunate enough to be able to prove by such evidence as satisfied this military tribunal "that they were absent from Cabul, lying sick in their villages, or otherwise engaged when the mutiny broke out and after events took place, were released." The others, those who at a moment's notice could not prove an alibi after such fashion as their executors approved, were adjudged guilty, and were hanged. The number of the hanged on this one raid of General Baker was forty-nine. They met their fate with a heroism which might, one would think, have extorted a word of generous recognition from their enemy. He says: "Their seeming carelessness as to their fate never varied, whether the sentence was death or acquittal." But in his eyes this is heroism, not even manly courage; it is "fanaticism." They were only "niggers"; how can the British soldier, turned hangman for the nonce, be expected to discover great qualities in his wretched victims? They are the mere rank and file who go thus cheerily to the gallows; the "great regret" of the hanging Briton is that he cannot hang the ring-leaders instead of such "poor specimens of humanity as these matched daily to execution," who are of but little account in our sight, and will not be missed in a country like this.

These forty-nine men were not even charged with any share in the killing of the British Envoy. If there be any charge against them, it is that of rebellion as above stated. If any reader of mine thinks they were rebels in any such sense as to excuse the hanging of them, I have nothing more to say. But the real reason for hanging them was a very different one, and has been cynically avowed. It was necessary to "terrorize" Afghanistan. There is no public law known to Europe which permits this thing to be done, but every Anglo-Indian will tell you that in India it is impossible to act on European notions of law. He may be right, but in that case, what one would like to ask of our Anglo-Indian friend is, why then do you invoke the sanction of European public law so long as it serves your purpose, and reject it when it stays your hand from such cruelties as these? That is a question which nobody has yet found time to answer. And there is one other question, viz., what name, in the absence of any justification by martial or other law, is to be given to these hangings? For myself, I should be loath to say what I thought, but an English writer-to-day who declares in an English journal that "if the hanging of these Afghans is not—and it is not pretended to be—an act of war; and if the punishment of death, under the name of an authority that has confessedly no existence, be not justifiable according to law, then General Roberts is guilty of murder, and may be indicted for murder at the Central Criminal Court." That is the opinion of a legal mind. I do not pretend to say that it is sound or unsound. But I think it may be said that General Roberts has treated Afghanistan as a jungle, and the Afghans as wild beasts.

G. W. S.

THE IRISH RELIEF MOVEMENT.

DEALING, Dec. 28, 1879.

Michael Davitt, one of the political agitators recently arrested in Dublin for seditious language at a public meeting and released on bail, has

been dispatched to the West of Ireland by the Irish Land League as a commissioner for the relief of popular distress. At a meeting of the committee for the distribution of the Duchess of Marlborough's relief fund, it was shown that the sum of £6,400 is already available for distribution.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTRY.

PARIS, Dec. 28, 1879.

A new Ministry has been constituted as follows:

President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs—M. de Freycinet.

Minister of the Interior and of Worship—M. Lepere.

Keeper of the Seal—M. Cazot.

Minister of Finance—M. Mangin.

Minister of War—General Faur.

Minister of Marine—Admiral Jauréguiberry.

Minister of Public Instruction—M. Jules Ferry.

Minister of Works—M. Vary.

Minister of Commerce—M. Tirard.

Minister of Posts and Telegraphs—M. Cochery.

M. Waddington has refused to accept the post of Ambassador to England.

The *Tribune* asserts that M. Gambetta had a long and cordial conference with President Grévy to-day.

LONDON, Monday, Dec. 29, 1879.

The principal feature in the reconstruction of the French Ministry is that M. Freycinet succeeds M. Waddington, and M. Mangin takes the place of M. Say.

IRONMASTERS VERY BUSY.

LONDON, Dec. 28, 1879.

The iron masters of North Staffordshire have issued circulars declining to receive further orders except subject to the prices current at the time of delivery. The trade is in a most flourishing condition, and additional furnaces are being blown.

PRINCE BISMARCK DENIES.

BERLIN, Dec. 28, 1879.

The North-German *Gazette* now authoritatively denies that Prince Bismarck has written to Senator Jacini on disarmament or any other subject.

THE PRESIDENT OF PERU FLEEING.

LONDON, Dec. 28, 1879.

The Chilean Legation at Paris announces that it has received a telegram stating that the President of Peru has arrived at Panama, en route to the United States and Europe.

A FATAL LIQUOR DISPUTE.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Dec. 28.—On Friday night John Vaughan, a stranger, entered the saloon of Herman Roberts and threw dice with Carson Appleby for drink. Not having money to pay therefor he became involved in a quarrel with Roberts, and while the latter was shutting the front door, Vaughan drew a pistol and shot him. Roberts died in a few minutes. Vaughan stepping over the dead body, fled through the front door into the back. A party of mounted men started in pursuit and captured the murderer. Threats of lynching were made.

GAMBLERS ROUGHLY DISTRESSED.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.—Six detachments of police, of five men each, moved simultaneously last night upon six gambling houses, and arrested nineteen men. Three houses were "faro" and three "keno." The latter were well filled with gamblers, who were being driven out by the police. The gamblers were taken to the station-house.

LOSS OF IDENTITY DISPELLED.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.—A special dispatch from St. Clairsville, Ohio, to *The Enquirer*, reports that the unknown man whose case excited great interest in medical circles because of the recent loss of the recollection of facts before the time of his entering the infirmary in January last, has been identified as Ralph Cowles, of Cleveland. The publication of the facts in a New-York medical journal led to the identification.

EXTREME COLD IN THE NORTHWEST.

WINNEPEG, Manitoba, Dec. 27.—The weather has been exceptionally severe all this week. Telegraphic communication with the United States has been interrupted in consequence. Trains on the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway have suspended running at the head of the line, and the boundary line, and now occupy two days on the route, passengers remaining over night at Breckenridge.

LYNCH LAW IN COLORADO.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 28.—"Sam" Woodruff and "Joe" Semble, the latter a half-breed Indian, who murdered R. B. Hayward, a farmer, Jefferson County, were taken from the jail at Golden at 11 o'clock this morning by 150 masked men, and hanged. The murder of Mr. Hayward was a cold-blooded and cowardly one.

THE LICKING RIVER RISING.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.—By the sudden rise in the Licking River a number of barges belonging to the Swift Rolling Mill were swept away. Eight barges were lost, valued with their contents at \$12,000.

"THE UTES MUST WORK."

To the Editor of *The Tribune*.

Sir: "The Utes must work for a living or get out of the way."—General Sherman, at the New-England Dinner in New-York December 22.

In the official report of the Indian Bureau for the year 1877 can be read the following statistics:

In the year 1877 the White River Utes owned 1,250 head of cattle, 20 mules, and 3,000 horses. They sold \$15,000 worth of skins and furs, and they bought \$10,000 worth of goods and provisions.

They raised 5,000 tons of lumber; they cut 10 tons of hay; they raised 25 bushels of vegetables; they are recorded as earning 60 per cent of their subsistence.

The Utes at the Los Pinos Agency owned 100 head of cattle, 25 mules and 6,000 horses; they sold \$6,000 worth of skins and furs; they cut 100 cords of wood; they saved 12,816 feet of lumber; they raised 200 bushels of vegetables, 30 bushels of oats and hay, and 20 tons of lumber; they bought 200 acres of land; they are reported as earning 45 per cent of their subsistence.

The Southern Utes are entered on this table, "showing agricultural products and the value of the same, and the subsistence of the different Indian tribes," as earning the whole 100 per cent of subsistence by hunting, raising and fishing. No issue of Government rations was given.

"Work for a living or get out of the way." H. H. For latest news about the Utes read the FIFTH PAGE.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

LARGE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.—Robert Mitchell, a wealthy furniture dealer, divided \$50,000 equally among ten members of his family on Christmas eve.

A FATAL STAR.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., Dec. 28.—John Blum, who was stabbed in the head a few days ago, died at 10 o'clock to-day.

MORTALITY IN KENTUCKY PRISON.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.—The death-rate at the Kentucky State Penitentiary is increasing. There were five internments from there yesterday, and many are sick in the hospital.

AID FOR IRELAND.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—The Irish citizens of this city held a large meeting yesterday, and resolved to assist their countrymen in Ireland in their struggle for independence.

AN ALLIANCE COUNTERFEITER CAUGHT.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 28.—An Italian named Frank MacFarland, was arrested on a charge of passing counterfeit half dollars of a new and deceptive manufacture. He has been held in \$2,000 for examination.

SUDDEN DEATH IN BUFFALO.

BUFFALO, Dec. 28.—Mrs. B. G. Carpenter, of Brooklyn, N. Y., dropped dead while walking with her husband in the street to-day.

SHOT DEAD.

MILLERSBURG, Ohio, Dec. 28.—Frank Feeters was fatally shot yesterday, and reports were made that he had been killed in the west part of Elkhart County. All alleged immorality was the cause of the shot.

THE GILROY MURDER.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 28.—Peter Gilroy, who was recently stabbed by William O'Brien, refused to tell anything about his wound until he had been examined by a doctor. The coroner's jury has returned a verdict of manslaughter.

KNOCKED OVERBOARD AND DROWNED.

CAPE MAY, N. J., Dec. 28.—Joseph Gregory, an apprentice, was knocked overboard Saturday by the main boom of the pilot boat E. C. Knight, and was drowned before aid could reach him. He was the son of one of the pilots.

A MYSTERIOUS MURDER.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—The coroner's jury in the case of young Charles Smith, who was found dead in the street with a revolver near his head, has decided that he came to his death from a pistol shot fired by an unknown hand with murderous intent. The case is a most mysterious one.

GREAT FIRE IN BOSTON.

SEVERAL BUSINESS HOUSES BURNED.

A PAPER WAREHOUSE BURNED DOWN—THE LOSS ESTIMATED AS IMMENSE.

In Boston, about 11 o'clock last night, a fire began in the rear of a paper warehouse on Federal-st., whence it extended to Devonshire street, causing great destruction of property. The latest estimate is that the loss is at least \$2,500,000. The publishing house of Houghton, Osgood & Co. has suffered heavily. The entire Fire Department has been engaged in quelling the flames.

A THREATENED CONFLAGRATION.

WAREHOUSES BURNED—THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLED OUT.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 28.—About 11 o'clock to-night a fire broke out in the rear of the paper warehouse of Rice, Kendall & Co., on Federal-st., near Franklin. Their building is entirely gone, and other very valuable property, including Houghton, Osgood & Co.'s publishing establishment, on Devonshire-st., and Rand & Avery's printing house on Franklin-st., is in great danger.

The flames are spreading rapidly, and the entire Fire Department of the city has been called out.

The fire is located in one of the most prominent business portions of the city.

SECOND DISPATCH—1 A. M.

The fire is making rapid progress, a third alarm has been sounded, and the firemen are fighting to keep the conflagration within its present limits.

The fire started in the rear of Rice, Kendall & Co.'s building, and has now extended to the building occupied by the North National Bank at the intersection of Franklin and Devonshire-sts.

The roof of the bank has fallen in and the entire building is ablaze. Messrs. Houghton & Osgood's loss will be immense, and the entire loss by the conflagration is estimated at between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.

Among the losers are the following:

Sabine & Page, hardware dealers, of Nos. 103 and 107 Federal-st.

Williams & Cohn, wool dealers.

The Ashton Valve Company.

D. Falkner, wool merchant.

Ephraim Baker, bookbinder.

S. K. Abbot, pamphlet binder.

J. T. Crowell and others on Federal-st.

The fire at present extends from Houghton & Osgood's building to Devonshire-st.

The following was received after 3 a. m., too late for the First Edition:

THE FIRE UNDER CONTROL.

THREE IMPORTANT BUILDINGS TOTALLY DESTROYED.—AN EXPLOSION.

Boston, Dec. 29.—3 a. m.—At this hour the fire is completely under control. The loss is not so heavy as was at first estimated, though many places it is a two and a half millions.

Rand & Avery did not suffer from fire, although their stock was damaged considerably by water.

The firm that have suffered a total loss are as follows:

Rice, Kendall & Co.

Houghton, Osgood & Co.

The Union Express Company.

Many of the smaller firms located on the same block on Federal and Devonshire-sts., sustained heavy damages, the extent of which it is impossible at this hour to estimate.

In addition to those already named the following are heavy losers.

S. D. Warren, paper manufacturer.

W. F. Brown & Co., printers.

The New-York and Boston Dispatch Company.

Earl and Frews Providence Express.

The stock in Rice, Kendall & Co.'s establishment was valued at nearly \$200,000, and the building, \$72,000.

The insurance is very heavy, and will, it is thought, cover the entire loss, but at this late hour the lists are not obtainable.

A general explosion occurred during the fire in the North Bank Building, and some of the firemen were injured.

It is impossible at this hour to ascertain in detail the insurance on the buildings burned.

THE FIRE SEVEN YEARS AGO.

A GLANCE BACK TO THE GREAT CONFLAGRATION OF 1872.

The last great fire which visited Boston broke out early on the evening of Saturday, November 9, 1872. The first alarm was given when the flames were discovered bursting from the fourth floor of the five-story granite building on the corner of Kingston and Summer-sts.

It was occupied by Telbott, Baldwin & Davis, dry goods jobbers; Damon, Temple & Co., dealers in fancy goods, and C. K. Young & Co., manufacturers of stays and corsets. The building was in the rear of the wholesale business district. Within a stone's throw was A. T. Stewart & Co.'s great branch house, while the store of Jordan, Marsh & Co. was close by.

The fire spread rapidly through the entire building in which it started, and mounted to the Mansard roofs with which the adjoining buildings were crowned. There was a fatal delay on the part of the Fire Department in getting its apparatus on the ground.

The reason for this was that the horses were sick with the "epizootic," and the engines had to be drawn by hand. Meanwhile the flames had crossed the street and communicated with the Mansard roofs on either side. Both sides of Kingston-st. and Summer-st. were blazing, and it was evident that the only thing to be hoped for was the checking of the further spread of the flames. Aid was summoned from all the neighboring cities and towns, but the efforts to stay the progress of the fire were futile.

From Summer and Kingston-sts. the flames advanced rapidly in all directions. Southward the fire burned about half a block, Eastward it took both sides of Summer-st., past Arch, Chalmers and Hawley-sts., and there ran diagonally to near the north-east corner of Summer and Washington-sts. Thence it ran along the east side of Washington-st. as far north as Milk. From Kingston-st. east and west the fire took both sides of Summer and Bedford-sts., and kept on until it reached the water, destroying the wharves and depot of the Hartford and Erie Railroad. It swept northward along Devonshire, Federal and Congress-sts. Milk-st. was destroyed. The territory burned over comprised about sixty acres, and the buildings swept out of existence were among the best of this kind in the United States.

The destruction was complete. Not a building remained standing in the district traversed by the flames. The great dry goods houses, wool houses and leather houses were nearly all in this district. One only daily newspaper was burned out, *The Traveller*, but there was a large number of weeklies, magazines, etc., and job and book printing houses which the flames swept away.

There were 950 buildings burned, which, with their contents, made a total loss of about

\$100,000,000. All of the Boston Companies were made bankrupt by the losses they sustained, and several in this and other cities suffered a similar fate. The large foreign companies suffered heavily, the Liverpool, London and Globe losing about \$1,500,000; the Queen, \$700,000, and the others in proportion. The Hartford companies lost in the aggregate about \$3,000,000. The loss of the insurance companies was in the aggregate about \$40,000,000.

THE FIRM OF HOUGHTON, OSGOOD & CO.

The firm of Houghton, Osgood & Co. was formed in 1878 by the partial consolidation of the firms of L. O. Houghton & Co. and James H. Osgood & Co. After the consolidation the new firm continued to carry on the publishing business in the Cathedral Building on Devonshire-st., two old headquarters of the L. O. Houghton & Co. The new firm published book-making and book-binding. The Osgood firm had been for nearly fifty years the chief publishers in New England, and for many years the Houghton firm had been noted for law books and works in general literature. The Houghton firm controlled the Riverside Press, long famous for recent work. The new firm published *The Atlantic* and continues to use the heliotype process introduced by James R. Osgood & Co. beside the special and general publications issued by the firm. The new firm published *The Atlantic*, published under the direction of the Post Office Department. Only a few weeks ago the firm gave a birthday breakfast to Oliver W. Holmes in the Franklin Hotel, at which a number of contributors to *The Atlantic* were present.

OTHER FIRES.

IN WATERTOWN, N. Y.—LOSS \$10,000.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Dec. 28.—The store, shop, goods and machinery of W. D. Chapman & Son, fishing tackle manufactory, at Theresa, N. Y., were destroyed by fire Friday. The loss is \$10,000; insured.

IN PALESTINE, TEXAS—LOSS \$80,000.

PALESTINE, Texas, Dec. 28.—An incendiary fire this morning destroyed the entire west side of the public square and block north of the square. The loss is estimated at \$50,000; insurance, \$18,000.

RESULT OF A LAMP EXPLOSION.